

Mayor Matt Larson places third in recycling challenge

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In the midst of the recycling challenge, Snoqualmie Mayor Matt Larson and his family of six changed their trash habits.

They learned they could recycle plastic yogurt cups and that they could compost soiled paper towels, which they had previously thrown in the trash.

It turns out napkins and paper towels compost well, he said. He has a worm infested compost bin in his backyard that turns banana peels, orange rinds — and yes, paper towels — into compost, which he then spreads across his yard.

Mayor Larson said recycling was more than about “the environment and earth hugging. I’m as cheap as the next guy,” he said. “I’ve been doing calculations, and I’m saving about \$200 to \$300 dollars a year,” by recycling and composting.



A waste expert with King County discusses recycling while weighing competitors' garbage bags at Snoqualmie City Hall. Photo by Darla Gatte

Because he composts in his backyard, Larson does not need a yard waste can or store-bought soil for his garden. He can also use a smaller trashcan.

Larson initiated the recycling challenge with King County Solid Waste. His family joined 13 others in the city and weighed their garbage at the beginning and end of one month.

The idea was to encourage participants to recycle or compost their waste instead of throwing it straight into the trashcan.

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